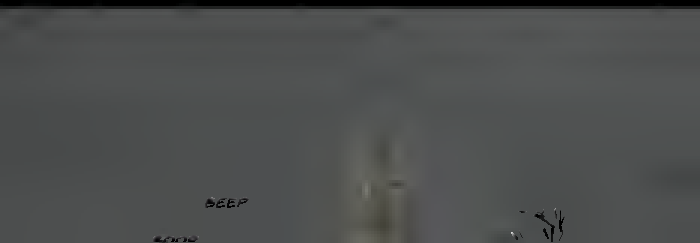
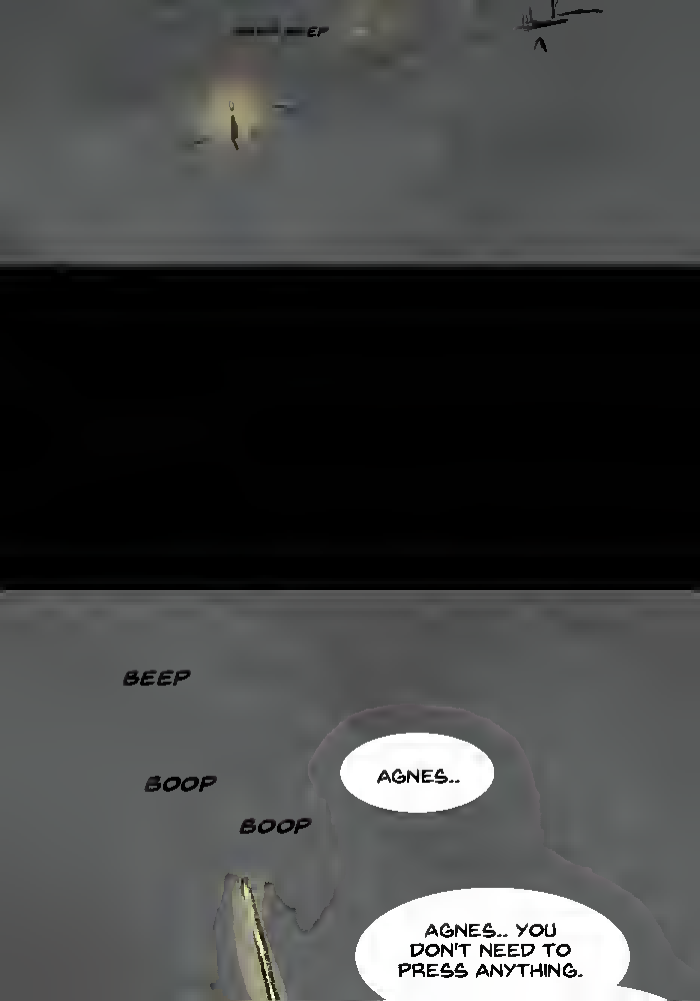
The Strange Tales of Oscar Zahn

THE LAST SOLDIER OF SOMME

CHAPTER 2




BEEP
BOOP
BOOP
AGNES..
AGNES.. YOU DON'T NEED TO PRESS ANYTHING.

JUST SPEAK INTO THE PHONE
OH-
.. STUPID CONTRAPTION..
DO YOU SEE ANYTHING?

ABSOLUTELY NOTHING..
WHICH MEANS THERE'S ABSOLUTELY SOMETHING OUT HERE...
SPECTROMETER IS STILL READING HOT-

WAIT..
I THINK I SEE-

OSCAR?

AGNES..
I THINK I FOUND SOMETHING

LIKE I MENTIONED EARLIER, THIS ISN'T MY STORY..

THIS IS A STORY ABOUT WAR.

LIKE MOST STORIES, THIS ONE HAS MANY CHARACTERS, EACH WITH THEIR OWN PERSPECTIVE ON THE EVENTS THAT TRANSPIRED.

HOWEVER,
IN MANY WAYS, THIS STORY
BEGINS WITH A RIFLE.

SPECIFICALLY THIS ONE.

THE CANADIAN ROSS RIFLE,
A STRAIGHT-PULL BOLT ACTION .303
INCH RIFLE INVENTED BY THIS MAN..

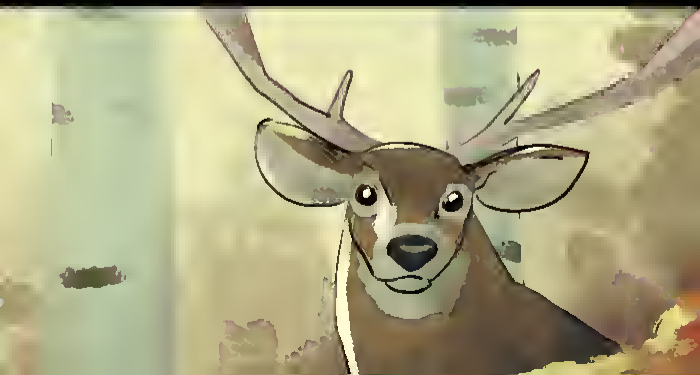
.... SIR CHARLES ROSS,
A BRITISH ARISTOCRAT,
INVENTOR...

... AND AVID HUNTER.

IN FACT, ON ONE GLORIOUS MORNING IN 1908

IN FACT, ON ONE GLORIOUS MORNING IN 1905, CHARLES ROSS SHOT AND KILLED 25 DEER.

CORRECTION...



26..

UNDERSTANDABLY, MISTER ROSS
WAS QUITE PROUD OF HIS RIFLE.

FORTUNATELY FOR CHARLES ROSS, THE YOUNG NATION OF CANADA WAS DESPERATELY SEARCHING FOR AN IDENTITY DURING THIS TIME.

IN AN EFFORT TO DISTINGUISH ITSELF FROM THE BRITISH ARMED FORCES, THE CANADIAN MILITARY WAS LOOKING FOR A RIFLE OF ITS OWN.

MAGNIFICENT VALOUR!
I HAVE NEVER SEEN SUCH A FINE WEAPON!
WE'LL TAKE 12,000!
*DRAMATIZATION GENERAL DID NOT WALK OUT OF FOREST

THIS WAS NOT A WISE DECISION...

THE ROSS RIFLE WAS DESIGNED FOR THE GENTEEL ART OF HUNTING AND NOT BUILT TO WITHSTAND THE RIGOROUS CONDITIONS OF WORLD WAR 1.

IT WAS OFTEN JOKED THAT THE ROSS RIFLE WAS AS DANGEROUS TO THOSE IN FRONT OF IT...

...AS THOSE BEHIND IT.
AGH! WUT DA #@SK?!!!

AND SO, AT LAST
WE COME TO THE HERO
OF OUR STORY..

PRIVATE CHARLIE "BAD LUCK" HARPER
4TH DIVISION, CANADIAN CORPS

TO BE CONTINUED

AUTHOR'S NOTE:
THANKS FOR TUNING IN EVERYBODY. PLEASE COME BACK NEXT WEEK TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT PRIVATE HARPER. THINGS ARE GOING TO GET WEIRD REALLY FAST!

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PLEASE CHECK OUT OSCARZAHN.COM FOR MY BLOG AND BEHIND THE SCENES STUFF.